

THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS

(Incorporated.)
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Entered in the Postoffice at Arcadia, Florida, as Second Class Matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year..... \$1.50
Six Months..... \$1.00
Three Months..... .75c
Sample Copies Cheerfully Mailed on Request.

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LINOTYPE COMPOSITION FOR THE TRADE AT REASONABLE RATES

According to Mr. Parker the Colonel's "red blood" has turned to ink.

That Duval committee don't believe in correcting errors—so long as the vote was certified to their liking.

The Mexicans haven't reported the death of Villa in a week now. Villa must be sick.

The Knott-Catts case is very much like this: "Nomination, nomination; who's got the nomination?"

Another thing calculated to drive the editor to drink: The cub reporter's English.

We voted first choice for Mr. Knott and haven't seen cause for regret up to this minute.

The allies are reported to be gaining on all sides in the great world war, but it's a long way to Berlin.

Suppose things don't come your way, which is better, to sit down and cry over it, or try a little pulling?

More than 220 car loads of pineapples have been shipped from St. Lucie county this season.

Reports say that the tobacco crop of Deatur county, Georgia, was badly damaged. Wonder if that will cause stogies to be longer?

The People's Forum of the Tampa Times is very busy just now trying to decide when a patriot is not a patriot.

The county commissioners will meet Friday and Saturday to equalize taxes. If you have a kick coming, then is the time to register it.

What has been done about the road proposition in District No. 4? Another month nearer the meeting of the Central Florida Highway Association.

Another new drainage district for DeSoto county. If we hurry we will have full fifty treasurers by the time the new law takes effect.

Courtesy costs nothing but to swallow your own miserable grouch, and it is recognized as the guise of a gentleman.

The Arcadia booklet will bear the "Made in Arcadia" slogan. Such being the case, its advertising value will be increased.

Cousin George is still giving Cousin Bill a terrible licking. Those British are always slow, but when they do get started, oh, my!

Since we come to think of it, Florida is a pretty good place to live in. We have not been washed or blown away in a long time.

If some "greater than thou" has put his veto on the ward proposition, it is a pretty good sign that it is what we "common folks" want.

Scientists have just discovered that cutting weeds is one of the most beneficial exercises of which the human body is capable. Ever try it?

Mr. Parker suggests that the Bull Moose change their name to the "Eagles." "A rose by any other name would be just as sweet."

Talking about work reminds us that a great improvement is evident in many parts of the city where the weeds have been cut.

The East St. Louis Journal says that marrying a man to reform him is like drinking whiskey to destroy it.

The Salt Lake Telegram says, "The man may place a roof over her head, but it remains for the wife to make it either a residence or a home."

The United States may be forced into a reasonable degree of preparedness by the bluffing of one long-whiskered Mexican.

It seems that some of the north and west Florida papers are opposed to a division of the state. Can't say that we blame them; even reflected progress is better than no progress at all.

According to published reports the H. C. of L. fell off one per cent. last year. Must have lost our one per, as we haven't noticed any extra change in our "jeans."

"How sweet 'tis for brothers to dwell together in unity." We have not noticed the Times calling its morning contemporary a "spineless travesty on journalism" in some time.

Polk county's nice million and half dollar bond issue has been validated in court. Another step towards the best system of roads in south Florida for Polk.

We are in receipt of Noel A. Mitchell's platform as an independent candidate for Governor of Florida. You talk fair enough, Mr. Mitchell, but we are a democrat, thank you.

Instead of criticising the fellow who is trying to do something, get out and try to do something yourself, and let the other fellow be the critic for awhile.

Tampa Times invites those who have had experience with sharks to send in their tale. If we should tell all we don't know about "sharks" the Times would have to put on an extra force of compositors.

Fellow in Mexico refused to take money from the United States government to get out of Mexico on, saying he was an unreconstructed rebel. He must have heard of the Knott-Catts affair.

The fellow who offered \$50,000 for the privilege of going back to Germany on the Deutschland must have the idea that heaven is in the opposite direction from that which we have always been taught.

If they don't divide this state south Florida will get credit for all those storms that hit Pensacola and Alabama. All south Florida wants is credit for her own industries.—Sarasota Sun.

The following sentence by an old Kentucky farmer. If not the most ungrammatical you ever saw, kindly let yours come forward and be rewarded: "Them three Miss Perkins is three of as pretty gal as ever I see."

Hon. W. C. Langford is both honest and intelligent, a rare combination in a legislator, so says the pessimist, but the Hon. W. C. possesses just these qualifications, and is worthy of any position of trust.

The best reappointment that we know of for Florida, is to cut off its tail and make the states of Florida and North Florida. As at present constituted, Florida is one animal with its brains in its tail.

A husband in a divorce suit at Rushville, Indiana, has been granted alimony to the amount of \$1,000 against his wife. We have always contended that men would get their rights if persistent in their claims.

'Gator skins have long been put to commercial use, and now comes the proposition to make use of the hide of sharks. If the proposition is proven a success, leather may take a small tumble.

And now we will have to have the question settled again, "Do men eat sharks or do sharks eat men?" Can't say for sure, but the evidence is against the shark, and this is one case in which we are perfectly satisfied with the circumstantial kind.

The people of Florida evidently did not think very highly of the work of some of the "leaders" in the 1915 legislature—at least, the way they were sent up "Salt river" by the electorate when they tried to step up a little higher so indicates.

Mr. Parker is indeed a brave man to speak so lightly of the Colonel, whom Collier's is constantly labeling "the greatest living American." If Mr. Parker can succeed in getting both the Colonel and Collier's against him, Mr. Wilson will have a formidable opponent.

Newspaper headline says, "Wilson Gets All He Asks." Don't know whether to consider him the luckiest man alive or not; have known people to get even more than they asked, and then they were not pleased.

Who will head the movement to stop the use of Peace river as a dumping ground by the phosphate people? If purified, it would soon abound in fish and be a never-ending source of pleasure to the people. Some one must take the lead.

We haven't much sympathy with the following suggestion from the Wichita Beacon, but it is true, nevertheless: "Nagging wives caused the founding of 'stag clubs,' and they send them many new members annually."

Shell Fish Commissioner Hodges claims that the hide of sharks would make fine shoe leather. If the pestiferous sea monster can be put to this good use (and why not?) it will be another evidence that there is nothing useless in all creation.

Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, the democratic candidate for the presidency in 1904, with his brother, F. H. Parker, have bought a fine piece of property near Fort Myers, of which they propose to make a stock farm.

The Duval county executive committee is highly insulted because Mr. Knott has asked for a recount of the votes of that county cast in the recent primary, alleging that there may have been mistakes made. Too bad about that committee.

Who said dull times in Arcadia? We have not finished the discussion of the gubernatorial race yet, and the city political pot is beginning to boil. It is indeed a dull time when you can not find something interesting to talk about and work on in Arcadia.

We do hope that President Wilson will make no appointment for a successor to Justice Hughes in a long time, or that he will take the senate into his confidence before he acts. One of the last kind in each twelve months is abundantly sufficient.

It will not be long until the "distinguished" representative from Gadsden county will have the opportunity to present his biennial comic to the legislature in the form of a proposition to force the school teachers of Florida to wear a specified garb. A very important matter, to be sure.

The women of France have received the following from the Zeitschrift fuer Frauenstimmrecht, the German woman suffragist organ: "We feel, think and suffer like you, and swear that after this catastrophic war the women of all nations shall work unitedly to prevent forever its recurrence."

The St. Petersburg Times seems to be very much perturbed because of the fact that there is such a resemblance of some of the editorials to those written by Uncle Joe Dixon while he was on the job several months ago. Easily explained. Friend Times, Mrs. Hetherington is always on the job.

The Editorial calls attention to the fact that originally it was Thomas Woodrow Wilson, and that by restoring this ticket would read Thomas Woodrow Wilson and Thomas R. Marshall, which would harmonize beautifully with the two Charleys on the republican ticket.

It matters not what character of public road you may build, provisions must be made for continuous repairs on it. What would you think of a railroad company that would take off the section hands, for even a few days?

We commend most heartily both Senator Fletcher and Senator Bryan for voting against the continuance of free seed distribution. This fool practice is said to cost the government several millions of dollars annually, from which very little benefit is derived. Save along all such lines and give it to us for good roads.

Many years ago we heard a young man say to the solicitor who had obtained his consent to enter college, "Now, I want you to get me an easy place." Yes, the young man matriculated, but—we'll say that was twenty years ago, and this young farm hand now often alludes to the time that he spent three weeks in college.

Two new subjects for musical composition have been suggested, one on the "Individual Paper Cup" as a rival for "The Old Oaken Bucket," and the other "Toot, Toot, the Boys Are Riding," instead of "Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching." Try your hands, ye would-be composers!

Sir Roger Casement's appeal has been dismissed. His only hope now lays in a pardon or commutation of the sentence by the king. There is no doubt of his guilt, and if he is shown executive clemency it will be to help soften the feeling existing between the Irish nationalists and the English.

It is said that the odor of the rose geranium will keep the gnats and mosquitoes away. We tried it last evening for mosquitoes with reasonable success, and we may now be expected to disdain the conventional boutonniere and attach to ourselves a whole bouquet, wholly of rose geranium.

The punishment that should be meted out to some of these near-editors who are always writing, "Dear Editor: Please pardon another intrusion on your valuable space," etc., is that they be compelled to furnish copy for the editorial column for about a week and then suffer the consequences of their folly at the hands of the readers.

If the abolition of the fee system is to be replaced by regulations as inimicable to interest of the people as followed the abolition of the treasurer's office, just please don't monkey with the existing status. In other words, quoting General Kourapatkin, let it remain "In Statu Quo." Anything, just so it isn't bothered—we might not have men enough to fill the new offices, if it is.

It is suggested that the reason Rev. Catts was so cocksure of being the nominee, is that he had advance information as to the exact vote of certain, sundry and various precincts. He objects to these votes being correctly counted and tallied—the correct account might not agree with his "forecast."

The most unusual wedding presents we ever heard of were recently given to a Polish couple in Wilmerding, Pa. They received \$965 in money, 200 cases of beer, five barrels of beer, 25 gallons of liquor, 100 cases of pop, 350 pounds of bologna, 500 pounds of meat, 1,200 buns, and 1,000 loaves of bread. The wedding lasted three days, and this probably accounts for so much drinks being provided for.

Dr. H. E. Barnard, state food and drug commissioner of Indiana, ridicules the idea of dieting young boys, and says it is nonsense, and that a boy's own appetite is a safe guide as to what he can eat with impunity. This information, however, will make very little change in the practice of the average boy, since he has always helped himself to everything from mulberries to green persimmons.

An exchange says that a Dade county man cut \$800 worth of hay at one time from sixteen acres of Para grass. The article also says that he had cut two smaller crops of hay from the same land and planting within the past twelve months. Florida has thousands of acres of untitled lands that will duplicate this if some one will only see that the little details are looked after.

In another column will be found an article from the Tampa Tribune which sets forth in plain figures the facts that are worrying the business departments of all publishing concerns. Like the Tribune, we are projected for the present year by a contract for news paper at the old price, but this year is rapidly drawing to a close, and after that our news stock will cost us 100 per cent. more. Who said "One thing right after another?"

Will not the next legislature carry out the expressed will of the people by abolishing the numerous county treasurers who are collecting treasurer-fees under the name of bond trustees. When the voters abolished the office of treasurer they certainly did not expect the legislature to make the burden even worse under the name of bond trustees. Put the bond money in the county depository, save the commission paid the trustees, and let the people have as much interest as possible to offset the interest they are paying on the bonds.

Miss M. T. Keon, of Boston, expects soon to establish a university of music in the United States. The tract of land on which the university is to be located lies near Harmon, N. Y., on the Hudson river, contains forty acres, and was purchased recently for \$100,000. Miss Keon is taking this step in order to save American girls from the great danger that surrounds them while pursuing their musical studies abroad. She rightly thinks that it is just as possible to get a good musical education in America as in a foreign country.

Popular subscription is the proper manner in which to raise funds for the survey of the roads that it is proposed to hard surface in this district. So word the call for the election that all advances by every one on this account must be repaid out of the proceeds of the sale of bonds, if voted. In this manner the bond district will carry its own burden. Each neighborhood should subscribe a proportionate amount, and allow every progressive citizen the privilege of assisting in this much needed improvement.

Our suggestion that the lower end of district No. 2 be joined to district No. 3 is meeting with a hearty response from the citizens of that section. It seems that the shape of that

district demands such division. When the commissioner is from the north end of the district, the south end, being so far away, feel that they haven't representation on the board, and a like sentiment prevails in the north end when the commissioner is from the south end of the district. In any case, the position of the commissioner is most trying, and this alteration would relieve the situation.

To Mr. Knott's credit be it said, that the department of which he is the head drafted a bill regulating the appointment and operation of county depositories, which was to the interest of the people only; notwithstanding the fact that it was so emasculated before final passage that it evolved a prodigy of special interests. Mr. Knott didn't make near the noise about fee bill, graft, etc., as some of the other candidates, but when he got a chance his actions showed that he was a servant of the tax payer, and not some special interest.

According to a recent report published by the office of public roads, United States department of agriculture, there were registered in 1915, 2,445,664 motor vehicles. The owners of these cars paid in total fees \$18,245,713, of which \$10,213,387 was spent for the building and maintenance of county and state roads. Automobile fees now pay nearly 7 per cent. of the total amount spent on rural roads, while the income from this source in 1906 was less than three-tenths of one per cent. of the total expenditures.

On account of the visits of seining parties, the "old fishing ground" on the Myakka is now posted as tight as can be. Too bad that the fellows will spoil real sport by exhibiting too much greed. The prevalence of seining, if continuously permitted, will soon destroy one of our nicest sports, if not by universal posting of lands, by destruction of the fish. It is said that one party seined out about 1,800 pounds of fish from the Myakka in one day, and thus caused the posting of the land. Of course they couldn't use all those fish, and we fall to see where the sport came in. We hope the next legislature will again put the ban on this wholesale destruction of a sport that attracts hundreds of visitors to our section.

THE WAR IS ON.

The Knott-Catts war seems on in earnest, and if so the end is a long way off, and the trouble to come both before and after will be great.

Knott has obtained a recount in some precincts in several counties that put him in the lead, and as Catts will want to get in the lead again, we see no reason why the game should not keep on until every precinct in the state shall be recounted. And that will be some job.

And also, Catts claims that the ballots recounted were not the same ones that the voters put into the boxes on June 6th, or in other words, that the ballot boxes have been stuffed since that date. Of course in other precincts where a recount may favor Catts, Knott can go into court with the same claim.

Then there are innumerable other possibilities. In our earlier days in a new country we saw something of some election contests, and believe us, once started they are as hard to stop or control as a prairie fire during a hurricane. We wouldn't any more start one ourselves than we would turn any other kind of plague loose.—St. Petersburg Times.

The above is just what the editor of the News has been trying to sum up courage to say ever since war was declared. This thing of an election contest is something awful. If you contest because of irregularities, the whole thing will be thrown out of court. Again, if you are after seeing whether the second choice votes were counted properly, you will have to recount the votes in every precinct in the state if it is to be regarded as having even the semblance of fairness. Then to be fair, you should eliminate all the republican votes cast and all those who will not support the nominees, and the whole thing gets in such a mess that we don't know where we are "at." Oh, Mr. Knott, how could you be so heartless. What you have brought on our beloved state is so much worse than having Mr. Catts for governor for four years, even if it should be so bad as some appear to believe. How could you, Mr. Knott?

The following paragraph concluding an editorial on "Jeff Davis," by the Meridian (Miss.) Star, goes a long way toward showing that there is now no north and no south, but one grand nation:

"The names of Davis and Lincoln will always be linked in history. The fame of one will glorify the name of the other. Both loved their country and sacrificed for it what few men are called upon to sacrifice—one becomes a martyr to a cause, the other a martyr to a reunited nation, both because they determined to do their duty as they saw it—for love of country, for love of their fellow men."

THE COUNTY

DEPOSITORIES AGAIN.

We are informed by a member of the legislature that the law governing the appointment and operation of county depositories, which will take the place of the treasurer after the first Monday in January, is very similar to the original measure proposed by the accounting department of the state.

It seems that the original bill would have made as depository bank that submitted the highest bid, and the people of the state really expected to receive a reasonable interest on their idle money. They voted to abolish the county treasurer, and the bill, as originally drawn, carried out this expectation, but the Hon. Mr. Wood et al. championed the present banking interest legislation, the senate backed them, and the people get stung.

We do not believe that the bankers of this county endorse the law any more than the people. We do not believe that they would care to be bothered with handling the money if they knew in advance that all the money of the banks in the county would qualify as depositories, and put the law shows that its apostles never intended for the tax payers to receive any benefit from the deposits of their idle money. In short, the "change in the wood pile" was not very much altered.

GAVIN'S

SENTIMENTS.

General Wood's criticism of the army under his command, and his criticism or lack of condition of preparedness for war, reminds us of an expression from the former superintendent of the Tennessee division of the I. C. Railroad, Mr. J. J. Gavin, when in conference with his superior at Memphis, Tenn. During the discussion the general manager of the road criticised the handling of the road on Mr. Gavin's division, and suggested that he must have in his employ a bunch of amateurs. The old superintendent got riled at this, and in language more expressive than elegant told them that he "had the best bunch of men on the Illinois Central Railroad, from Chicago to Memphis." Is it any wonder that those men led Mr. Gavin, and that the work of their division was in reality not very high, and that Mr. Gavin himself was soon promoted? Not a bit. But how about officials like General Wood? Don't they usually get a promotion that may come to them by reason of some "influential" friend, and hold it pretty much the same way, and in what esteem are they held by those under them, and what can they accomplish when the crucial test comes? In answering questions like these, we refer to men with Gavin's sentiments.

AND THEN WHAT?

"Will Catts support Wilson?" is a question being pushed forward with considerable persistence around the state. He probably won't. After saying what he has said about Wilson he couldn't be expected to. And that suggests another question. What are you going to do about it?—St. Petersburg Times.

The question should be put squarely to Catts. If he should answer in the negative it would absolve every democrat from voting for him.—Orlando Star.

Well, put it to him, and if he doesn't immediately say he will support Wilson, we will absolve ourselves of the Star suggestion. Mr. Catts, are you for Wilson? We think you will support him, but since the question is raised, you do yourself a great injustice not to answer unequivocally. You can be governor of Florida who will not support Wilson. Shall we hear from you at an early date?

TWO WAYS.

There are two ways of telling every story, and this paper was a little skeptical about the report that a salaried barber shop because he was wearing the uniform. It now transpires that the reason the soldier was refused service was because he came to the shop after closing time, and as there are strict union rules against serving patrons after certain hours, the soldier was denied the shave for that reason only. The American people, always as a unit, have the highest respect for the uniform to act otherwise than as gentlemen while wearing it.—Lakeland Telegram.

That thing looked to us like a little explaining could be done to advantage. We concluded that if the barber's gentleman was guilty as charged, he wouldn't have a job in Jacksonville or anywhere else acquainted with his action.

ANOTHER GUESS.

The Tampa Times in its lead editorial of yesterday, headed "Newspaper Folk Getting Together," speaks of Mr. Andrew Carter as editor of the Enterprise. Of course it is useless to suggest any one, except the Times man, for Mr. Carter is editor of the Enterprise, our esteemed contemporary in the field.